

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for facilitating secure communication  
2 between two networked devices, comprising:
  - 3 establishing communication between a situation notification device and a
  - 4 provisioning device over a preferred channel, wherein the preferred channel is  
bidirectional, location-limited, has a demonstrative identification property and an  
authenticity property, and does not require being resistant to eavesdropping;  
wherein the demonstrative identification property allows a human  
operator to be aware of which devices are communicating with each other  
based on physical proximity; and  
wherein the authenticity property makes it difficult or impossible  
for attacking devices to tamper with or alter messages transmitted in the  
preferred channel, or to insert false information into the preferred channel  
without being detected by legitimate participants communicating via the  
preferred channel;
  - 15 prior to establishing the communication, pre-authenticating the situation  
16 notification device to ensure that the situation notification device has physical  
17 access to the preferred channel, wherein pre-authenticating the situation  
notification device involves:  
exchanging key commitment information between the provisioning  
device and the situation notification device over the bidirectional preferred  
channel;

22                   exchanging keys between the provisioning device and the situation  
23                   notification device over a bidirectional channel which does not have to be  
24                   the preferred channel; and  
25                   verifying the received keys using the received key commitment  
26                   information on both the provisioning device and the situation notification  
27                   device;  
28                   providing provisioning information to said situation notification device  
29                   over said preferred channel, wherein said situation notification device is  
30                   automatically configured to receive subject matter information responsive to said  
31                   provisioning information;  
32                   receiving said subject matter information;  
33                   verifying said subject matter information with said provisioning  
34                   information; and  
35                   presenting said subject matter information to a user of the situation  
36                   notification device responsive to the step of verifying, wherein the step of  
37                   verifying ensures that the subject matter information is genuine.

1                   2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of  
2                   providing further comprises:  
3                   exchanging key commitment information over said preferred channel  
4                   between said provisioning device and said situation notification device;  
5                   receiving a public key by said situation notification device;  
6                   verifying said public key with said key commitment information; and  
7                   receiving a credential authorized by a credential issuing authority.

1                   3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said preferred  
2                   channel is a location-limited channel.

1           4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said preferred  
2 channel uses a telephone switching system.

1           5. (Canceled)

1           6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein subject matter  
2 information is received using an antenna, a telephone line, a local area network, a  
3 wide area network, a wireless network, or a broadcast network.

1           7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said situation  
2 notification device is a computer, a television, a radio, a telephone, a push to talk  
3 device, a pager, a clock, a thermostat, a network appliance, or a home appliance.

1           8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising  
2 forwarding said subject matter information.

1           9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said subject  
2 matter information is alarm information.

1           10. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing  
2 instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to present  
3 subject matter information, the method comprising steps of:  
4           establishing communication between a situation notification device and a  
5 provisioning device over a preferred channel, wherein the preferred channel is  
6 bidirectional, location-limited, has a demonstrative identification property and an  
7 authenticity property, and does not require being resistant to eavesdropping;

8                   wherein the demonstrative identification property allows a human  
9                   operator to be aware of which devices are communicating with each other  
10                  based on physical proximity; and

11            wherein the authenticity property makes it difficult or impossible  
12            for attacking devices to tamper with or alter messages transmitted in the  
13            preferred channel, or to insert false information into the preferred channel  
14            without being detected by legitimate participants communicating via the  
15            preferred channel:

16 prior to establishing the communication, pre-authenticating the situation  
17 notification device to ensure that the situation notification device has physical  
18 access to the preferred channel, wherein pre-authenticating the situation  
19 notification device involves:

20 exchanging key commitment information between the provisioning  
21 device and the situation notification device over the bidirectional preferred  
22 channel:

23 exchanging keys between the provisioning device and the situation  
24 notification device over a bidirectional channel which does not have to be  
25 the preferred channel; and

26 verifying the received keys using the received key commitment  
27 information on both the provisioning device and the situation notification  
28 device;

29 providing provisioning information to said situation notification device  
30 over said preferred channel, wherein said situation notification device is  
31 automatically configured to receive said subject matter information responsive to  
32 said provisioning information;

33 receiving said subject matter information;

34 verifying said subject matter information with said provisioning  
35 information; and

36 presenting said subject matter information to a user of the situation  
37 notification device responsive to the step of verifying, wherein the step of  
38 verifying ensures that the subject matter information is genuine.

1 11. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10,  
2 wherein the step of providing  
3 further comprises:

4 exchanging key commitment information over said preferred channel  
5 between said provisioning device and said situation notification device;  
6 receiving a public key by said situation notification device;  
7 verifying said public key with said key commitment information; and  
8 receiving a credential authorized by a credential issuing authority.

1 12. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10,  
2 wherein said preferred channel is a location-limited channel.

1 13. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10,  
2 wherein said preferred channel uses a telephone switching system.

1 14. (Canceled)

1 15. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10,  
2 wherein subject matter information is received using an antenna, a telephone line,  
3 a local area network, a wide area network, a wireless network, or a broadcast  
4 network.

1 16. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10,  
2 wherein said situation notification device is a computer, a television, a radio, a

3       telephone, a push to talk device, a pager, a clock, a thermostat, a network  
4       appliance, or a home appliance.

1           17. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, further  
2       comprising forwarding said subject matter information.

1           18. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10,  
2       wherein said subject matter information is alarm information.

1           19. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:  
2       at least one port configured to establish a preferred channel, wherein the  
3       preferred channel is bidirectional, location-limited, has a demonstrative  
4       identification property and an authenticity property, and does not require being  
5       resistant to eavesdropping;  
6               wherein the demonstrative identification property allows a human  
7       operator to be aware of which devices are communicating with each other  
8       based on physical proximity; and  
9               wherein the authenticity property makes it difficult or impossible  
10       for attacking devices to tamper with or alter messages transmitted in the  
11       preferred channel, or to insert false information into the preferred channel  
12       without being detected by legitimate participants communicating via the  
13       preferred channel;  
14       a first communication mechanism configured to receive provisioning  
15       information over said preferred channel, whereby the apparatus is configured to be  
16       able to receive subject matter information responsive to said provisioning  
17       information,  
18               wherein the port is further configured to pre-authenticate the first  
19       communication mechanism prior to receiving the provisioning information to

20 ensure that the first communication mechanism has physical access to the  
21 preferred channel, wherein pre-authenticating the situation notification device  
22 involves:  
23 exchanging key commitment information between the provisioning  
24 device and the situation notification device over the bidirectional preferred  
25 channel;  
26 exchanging keys between the provisioning device and the situation  
27 notification device over a bidirectional channel which does not have to be  
28 the preferred channel; and  
29 verifying the received keys using the received key commitment  
30 information on both the provisioning device and the situation notification  
31 device;  
32 a second communication mechanism configured to receive said subject  
33 matter information subsequent to operation of the first communication  
34 mechanism;  
35 a verification mechanism configured to verify said subject matter  
36 information with said provisioning information; and  
37 a presentation mechanism configured to present said subject matter  
38 information to a user of the situation notification device responsive to the  
39 verification mechanism, wherein the step of verifying ensures that the subject  
40 matter information is genuine.

1 20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the first communication  
2 mechanism further comprises:  
3 a key commitment receiver mechanism configured to receive key  
4 commitment information through said at least  
5 one port;  
6 a key receiver mechanism configured to receive a public key;

7           a pre-authentication mechanism configured to verify said public key with  
8    said key commitment information; and  
9           a credential provisioning mechanism configured to be able to  
10   automatically provide a credential authorized by a credential issuing authority  
11   responsive to the pre-authentication mechanism.

1           21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said preferred channel is  
2    a location-limited channel.

1           22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said preferred channel  
2    uses a telephone switching system.

1           23. (Cancelled)

1           24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein subject matter  
2    information is received using an antenna, a telephone line, a local area network, a  
3    wide area network, a wireless network, or a broadcast network.

1           25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the apparatus is within a  
2    computer, a television, a radio, a telephone, a push to talk device, a pager, a clock,  
3    a thermostat, a network appliance, or a home appliance.

1           26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a forwarding  
2    mechanism configured to forward said subject matter information.

1           27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said subject matter  
2    information is alarm information.

1           28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said preferred  
2   channel has a demonstrative identification property and an authenticity property

1           29. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of  
2   claim 10, wherein said preferred channel has a demonstrative identification  
3   property and an authenticity property.

1           30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said  
2   preferred channel has a demonstrative identification property and an authenticity  
3   property.